

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A fuel nozzle assembly comprising:

a first fuel inlet in fluid communication with a first fuel passage and first fuel injection means for supplying a first fuel to a combustor;

a steam inlet in fluid communication with a steam passage and steam injection means for supplying steam to a combustor;

an air passage and air injection means for supplying air to a combustor;

and,

a plate fixed to means to regulate a steam supply at said steam inlet having at least one metering hole of constant diameter.

2. (original) The fuel nozzle assembly of Claim 1 further comprising a second fuel inlet in fluid communication with a second fuel passage and second fuel injection means for supplying a second fuel to a combustor;

3. (original) The fuel nozzle assembly of Claim 2 wherein said first fuel inlet supplies a gaseous fuel to said first fuel passage and said second fuel inlet supplies a liquid fuel to said second fuel passage.

4. (original) The fuel nozzle assembly of Claim 2 wherein said second fuel passage is located along a center axis of said fuel nozzle assembly.

5. (original) The fuel nozzle assembly of Claim 4 wherein said air passage is located radially outward of said second fuel passage.

6. (original) The fuel nozzle assembly of Claim 5 wherein said steam passage and said steam injection means are located radially outward of said air passage.

7. (original) The fuel nozzle assembly of Claim 6 wherein said first fuel passage and said first fuel injection means are located radially outward of said steam passage.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The fuel nozzle assembly of Claim [[8]] 1 wherein said at least one metering hole has a diameter of 0.25 inches.

10. (original) The method of providing uniform steam flow to a plurality of fuel nozzle assemblies about a gas turbine engine, said method comprising the steps:

a. providing a gas turbine engine having a plurality of combustors and a manifold containing steam;

b. providing a plurality of fuel nozzle assemblies, each of said fuel nozzle assemblies having:

a first fuel inlet in fluid communication with a first fuel passage and first fuel injection means for supplying a first fuel to a combustor;

a steam inlet in fluid communication with a steam passage and steam injection means for supplying steam to a combustor;

an air passage and air injection means for supplying air to a combustor;

c. providing a means to flow steam from said manifold to each of said fuel nozzle assemblies;

d. determining a first flow rate of steam through each of said fuel nozzle assemblies;

e. inserting a meterplate into each of said fuel nozzle assemblies at said steam inlets, each meterplate having a metering hole with an effective flow area that depends on said first flow rate, wherein said metering hole restricts the flow of steam thereby creating a pressure drop and resulting in equivalent steam flow to all nozzle assemblies;

f. determining a second flow rate of steam through each of said fuel nozzle assemblies to verify equivalent steam flow to all nozzle assemblies;

11. (original) The method of Claim 10 wherein said metering hole in said meterplate increases said pressure drop across said fuel nozzle by a factor of approximately two.